

FANS NONCHALANT ABOUT NEW TEAM

**'They're Not the Dodgers,'
'Why in Queens?' Are
Among Responses**

By **HOWARD M. TUCKNER**

No dancing in the streets, popping of champagne corks or other symptoms of joy greeted the news yesterday that New York would have a National League baseball team in 1962.

The majority of those interviewed from Flushing, Queens, to Central Park who showed some enthusiasm did so for less than altruistic reasons.

A few old Giant and Dodger fans said the only thing good about it would be the opportunity to see their teams again.

"I welcome the new team," said Charles Blackwell, a stage manager, "and I wish them success. But they're not the Dodgers."

Two persons said they liked the idea because they hated the Yankees.

Angelic-Looking Anti-Yankee

Pat Griffing, an angelic-looking, blond booking agent for a modeling agency, was one of them:

"I hate the Yankees so much," she said, "that I'd like to see them leave New York. Maybe the new team won't be so snobbish."

The other, a cab driver, put it this way:

"I've been under a lot of pressure lately 'cause I thought the Yankees would win the series. I can't stand them. It would be better for my health if I could go to see another team play here."

Only a few of the thirty persons interviewed gave unequivocal support for a new team, but one who did said he was sure that the city would make a big mistake if it built a stadium for the team in Flushing Meadow, the proposed site.

'Why Build in Queens?'

"They don't go for baseball in Queens," Gerry Workman, a truck driver, said. "They won't go to the games. They play with the kids on the week-ends. That's all. Why the heck do they have to build a stadium out there?"

"Where would you build it?" he was asked.

"That's not my problem," he said. "Let them put it in the park behind the Fifth Avenue Library. I don't care. But if they put it in Queens, the team will flop. Nobody from New Jersey will go to the games."

Another person who welcomed a new team was William Bendix, the actor. But when he gave his views, at Sardi's, he said it might be very difficult to choose a name for the team if it was based in Queens.

"Flushing," he said, "is not a good name for a baseball team."

Bartenders said a new team would help sell more beer. Doormen said it would bring in more tips. Cab drivers said it would help keep the meters clicking. But when asked if they would plunk down \$3.50 to see the Meadowlarks play the Phillies, most offered the equivalent of:

"You nuts, pal? I couldn't care less."

Pat Sweeney, a booking agent for models, also couldn't have been more casual.

Through With Baseball

"I gave up baseball," the young brunette said, "when Joe DiMaggio retired. When I was in high school, I was madly in love with him. When he quit, it broke my heart. When he married Marilyn Monroe, I had to go to the hospital for two weeks."

Out in Queens, no cries of "Fight 'Em, Flushings" could be heard at the busy intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Main Street. But it would be unfair to say that those persons interviewed in front of the subway station near Gertz' Department Store were unexcited about the prospect of having a big-league team playing in their back yard.

"It will mean a lot for the people who live in Flushing," Fred Hansbury said. "The subway service will have to improve."